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Message Text

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20
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02 SAM-01 /087 W
---------- 017533
R 141104Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6388
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ORIT, PINT
SUBJECT: SPAINISH WORKERS COMMISSIONS (SWC) HOLDS "CLASDESTINE"
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN BARCELONA

REF: MADRID 4966

1. THE SWC GATHERING INITIALLY PROJECTED FOR LATE JUNE
OR THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY, TOOK PLACE JULY 11 IN BARCELONA
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. BANNED BY THE
GOVERNMENT, THE SWC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MET "CLANDESTINELY"
AND REPORTEDLY GATHERED SOME 350 TO 600 DELEGATES FROM
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THROUGHOUT SPAIN. AN EXPANDED 27-MAN SECRETARIAT

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(ORIGINALLY 9) WAS ELECTED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PCE-MEMBER MARCELINO CAMACHO. A CIFRA (GOVT-OWNED NEWS AGENCY) ACCOUNT NOTED THE PRESENCE ALSO OF THE FOLLOWING SWC LEADERS: NICOLAS SARTORIUS, JULAIN ARIZA, MUNIZ ZAPICO, AND CIPRIANO GARCIA (ALL PCE-RELATED FIGURES).

2. AD HOC COMMITTEES WERE REPORTEDLY FORMED TO DEAL WITH A) STRENGTHENING OF THE SWC, B) RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SWC AND THE OPPOSITION, C) THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND PERSPECTIVES, AND D) LABOR UNITY AND THE FORMATION OF A UNITARY LABOR ORGANIZATION. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER PRESS REPORT, THE ASSEMBLY BY A VOTE OF 282 TO 68 AGREED THAT THE SWC WOULD NOT RPT NOT CONVERT ITSELF INTO A TRADE UNION UNTIL THE "DEMOCRATIC RUPTURE" (I.E. COMPLETE BREAK WITH THE OLD REGIME) OCCURRED. IN THE MEANTIME, THE SWC CHARACTERIZED ITSELF MODESTLY AS A SIMPLY MASS ORGANIZATION--"A SOCIA-POLITICAL MASS MOVEMENT."

3. SWC SECRETARIAT SPOKESMEN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 13 TO REPORT ON THE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE SWC WAS A MOVEMENT WHICH WAS TRANSFORMING ITSELF INTO "A NEW TYPE OF UNITARY TRADE UNION" WHICH REQUIRED THE "PERFECTING OF ITS ORGANIC STRUCTURE". THIS NEW SWC WOULD BE OPEN TO ALL WORKERS "IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR IDEOLOGY OR POLITICAL PARTY," AND WHETHER MEMBERS OR NON-MEMBERS, AS LONG AS THEY WERE WAGE-EARNERS. WHILE THE SWC SPOKESMEN PROTESTED THAT THEIR ORGANIZATION WAS POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT AND DID NOT WISH TO MONOPOLIZE THE ENTIRE LABOR MOVEMENT, YA'S JULY 14 ACCOUNT OF THE SWC PRESS CONFERENCE NOTED THAT "AN AMPLE MAJORITY" OF THE NEW SECRETARIAT WAS AFFILIATED TO THE PCE.

4. COMMENT: AFTER HAVING AUTHORIZED THE UGT MADRID CONGRESS LAST APRIL AND HAVING PROHIBITED AN SWC ASSEMBLY IN MADRID (REFTEL), THE GOVT APPARENTLY THOUGHT IT TACTICALLY WISE TO TOLERATE THE NON-PUBLIC SWC ASSEMBLY IN BARCELONA. WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

B) AND D) ABOVE, THE ON-AGAIN OFF-AGAIN COORDINADORA DE FUERZAS SINDICALES (NATIONAL "UNITY OF ACTION" COORDINATION MECHANISM GROUPING THE SWC, UGT, AND USO) WHICH THE PCE-DOMINATED SWC IS SO ANXIOUS TO CONSTITUTE, MAY BE ON THE VERGE OF BEING FORMALLY AN-NOUNCED. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE THREE LABOR GROUPS ISSUED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON JULY 13 DEPLORING THE FAILURE OF THE REFORMIST LINE (ESPECIALLY IN TRADE

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UNION AFFAIRS) AND THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC SITUATION.
IF CONSITUTED THIS LABOR COORDINADORA WOULD BE THE COUNTER-
PART TO THE PLATA-JUNTA (MADRID 5372). DESPITE THE ABOVE,
RESPONSIBLE UGT AND USO LABOR
LEADERS VERY RECENTLY REEMPHASIZED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS
THAT THEY SAW THE COORDINADORA AS HAVING ONLY LIMITED
"UNITY OF ACTION" GOALS AND NOT BY ANY MEANS AS AN
ORGANISM LEADING TO AN EVENTUAL UNIFIED LABOR MOVEMENT.
THEY WISH TO AVOID ANY UNIFICATION A LA PORTUGUESE
INTERSINDICAL WHICH THEY REALIZE WOULD MEAN THE END
OF AN INDEPENDENT UGT AND USO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REPORTS, LABOR UNIONS, PARTY MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID05430
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760272-0805
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760760/aaaacals.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MADRID 4966
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <01 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPAINISH WORKERS COMMISSIONS (SWC) HOLDS "CLASDESTINE" NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN BARCELONA
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SP, SWC, SPANISH WORKERS COMMISSIONS
To: STATE
Type: TE
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